



COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Top Policy Priorities Presented to the Health and Human Service Committee of the County Council November 17, 2021

Presenter: Ms. Renae McPherson, Chair

Overview:

The Commission on Children and Youth (CCY) promotes the well-being of Montgomery County's children, youth, and families so that all young people may realize their full potential and become contributing, productive adults. We do this by supporting policy and budget decisions that promote the safety and well-being of children and youth, and by working so that they have access to successful futures.

2021-2022 Commission on Children and Youth Priorities

The Commission will advance its mission in FY 22 through a focus on two priorities:

Priority 1: Accessible Youth Spaces

The Commission on Children and Youth seeks to explore various safe and accessible spaces that can serve county youth outside of the school day. These spaces ideally would be locations where young people can connect with their peers, and have access to social-emotional, recreational and academic support. Considerations will include, but not limited to: geographical locations of spaces in underserved areas, services/programs for all ages of youth, access for young people with disabilities.

Priority 2: Youth Employment Opportunities

One of the aims of the CCY is to promote the well-being of our county's children and youth, so that they have access to successful futures. A way to support this, is by examining the ways in which current Montgomery County programs provide equitable access to ALL of our youth, so that they may explore various career pathways in a supportive setting. The CCY will consider the ways in which young people are able to currently seek employment, while developing workplace skills that they can take with them into adulthood. Additionally, the CCY will explore in which ways county programs can partner with the private sector to gain practical skills and networking.

Additionally, the Commission is planning to host its annual "**Youth Having a Voice**" roundtable event (event format TBD). This year will mark the 15th year the Commission has hosted this gathering of teens from across the County to discuss issues that are important in their lives. Not only do youth have the opportunity to speak out, but adults – members of the County Council, Board of Education, HHS senior leadership and others – have the chance to hear, learn, and act on the concerns of the youth. Stay tuned for details!

The Commission is committed to its mission and appreciates your support in our efforts. We look forward to working with you this year. Please feel free to inform us about how we may best support your efforts and partner to benefit the County's children and youth.